A/68/8

United Nations

# Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

## Twenty-fourth session (15-19 April 2013)

**General Assembly**
**Official Records**
**Sixty-eighth Session**
**Supplement No. 8**

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# Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

**Twenty-fourth session**
**(15-19 April 2013)**

United Nations • New York, 2013

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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# I. Introduction

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001.

2. The report of the Governing Council on the work of its twenty-fourth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162 and paragraph 7 of section A of General Assembly resolution 56/206.

3. The Governing Council consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations: 16 from African States, 13 from Asia-Pacific States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At the time of its twenty-fourth session, the Governing Council had nine vacant seats.

4. At the time of its twenty-fourth session, the Governing Council was composed of the following members, whose terms of office expire on 31 December of the year in brackets after the country name:

**African States (16)**
Algeria (2014)
Benin (2016)
Burkina Faso (2015)
Central African Republic (2014)
Congo (2015)
Gabon (2014)
Lesotho (2015)
Madagascar (2016)
Mali (2014)
Morocco (2016)
Mozambique (2014)
Nigeria (2014)
Somalia (2016)
South Africa (2015)
Uganda (2016)
United Republic of Tanzania (2015)

**Western European and other States (13)**
Finland (2014)
Germany (2015)
Israel (2015)
Italy (2015)
Spain (2016)
Sweden (2014)
Turkey (2014)
United States of America (2014)

*Five vacant seats*

**Latin American and Caribbean States (10)**
Antigua and Barbuda (2016)
Argentina (2014)
Brazil (2015)
Chile (2014)
Colombia (2016)
El Salvador (2016)
Grenada (2014)
Haiti (2015)
Mexico (2015)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2014)

**Asia-Pacific States (13)**
Bahrain (2015)
Bangladesh (2016)
China (2016)
India (2015)
Indonesia (2014)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2014)
Japan (2014)
Jordan (2015)
Pakistan (2014)
Republic of Korea (2016)
Saudi Arabia (2015)
Sri Lanka (2016)
Thailand (2015)

**Eastern European States (6)**
Albania (2014)
Russian Federation (2014)

*Four vacant seats*

5. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council was held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi from 15 to 19 April 2013.

# II. Organization of the session (agenda items 1-4)

## A. Opening of the session

6. The twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was opened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 15 April 2013, by Mr. Albert Nsengiyumva (Rwanda), President of the Governing Council.

7. The formal opening of the session was preceded by a welcoming a cappella performance by the Moipei Quartet.

8. Opening statements were made by Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, who also read a statement on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya; Mr. Evans Kidero, Governor of Nairobi county; Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Special Adviser on the post-2015 development agenda; Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Ms. Aminata Traore, Chair of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues and former Minister of Culture of Mali. The Council also heard a pre-recorded statement by Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

## B. Attendance

9. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

10. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

11. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See and the State of Palestine also participated.

12. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Federal Credit Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

13. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: European Union, International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO), League of Arab States.

14. Representatives of national and regional assemblies and parliaments, local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting, as did representatives of non-governmental and private-sector organizations.

15. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/24/INF/7.

## C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting of the session, on Monday, 15 April 2013, in the absence of a nomination for the presidency by the Western European and other States, the Governing Council elected Ms. Amal Pepple (Nigeria), representing the group of African States, as President of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session. Speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, the representative of Brazil said that, while those States had been expected to nominate a candidate for Rapporteur, they proposed instead to submit a nomination for Vice-President.

17. The Governing Council then elected the following officers for the session:

| | |
|---|---|
| Vice-Presidents: | Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) |
| | Mr. Fernando Rolandelli (Argentina) |
| | Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan (Bangladesh) |
| Rapporteur: | Mr. Franz Marré (Germany) |

## D. Credentials

18. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 19 April 2013, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

## E. Adoption of the agenda

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 15 April 2013, the Governing Council had before it documents HSP/GC/24/1 and Add.1. The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session, as set out in document HSP/GC/24/1 as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014-2015.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

## F. Organization of work

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5, 7 and 8. The Council would consider item 6 and issues arising under items 5, 7 and other items during the plenary meetings of the Council.

21. The work of the plenary meetings for the first three days of the session was divided into two segments: a high-level segment, featuring general debate by ministers and other high-level representatives, would be held on the first and second days, and a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme of the meeting would be held on the third day.

22. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Governing Council. It was agreed that the draft resolutions would first be considered by the Committee of the Whole, that the Committee of the Whole would submit them to the drafting committee for further consideration and that following their consideration by the drafting committee, the Committee of the Whole would submit them to the Governing Council for consideration and possible adoption in plenary.

23. In considering the agenda items, the Governing Council had before it the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/24/1/Add.1/Rev.1).

### G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan (Bangladesh), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council, and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation), a fellow vice-president. It held eight meetings between 15 April and 19 April. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 15 April 2013, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

25. At its 8th and final meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, the Committee adopted the report of its deliberations. At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all the agenda items before it except the draft resolution on governance. The report of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex V to the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.[1]

### H. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions (agenda items 5, 7 and 8)

26. The drafting committee held six meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on 15 draft resolutions.

27. Those 15 resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, are set out in the annex to the present report and in annex I to the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

## III. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5-7)

### A. High-level segment

28. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5-7 at its 2nd plenary meeting, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those items. The general debate continued at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 April 2013. A summary of the general debate by the President of the Governing Council is set forth in annex III to the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

### B. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session

29. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 17 April 2013, the Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session under agenda item 6. The dialogue featured four panel discussions, each with a moderator, and was chaired by the President of the Governing Council. The panel discussions covered four specific

[1] A full account of the proceedings, containing, among other things, chapters on the discussions under each agenda item, will be issued under the symbol HSP/GC/24/7.

aspects of the theme: economics of urban form, financing of urban development, youth economic empowerment and women's economic empowerment. A summary of the dialogue is set forth in annex IV to the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

## IV. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

30. The Governing Council considered the agenda item at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013. It adopted decision 24/1 on the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session, the text of which is reproduced in annex I to the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

31. On the recommendation of the Bureau, it was decided that the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council should be held from 20 to 24 April 2015 at UN-Habitat headquarters, Nairobi.

## V. Other matters (agenda item 9)

32. No other matters were discussed.

## VI. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 10)

33. At the Council's 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee.

34. The report of the session was adopted by the Governing Council at its 8th plenary meeting, in the evening of Friday, 19 April 2013, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

## VII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

35. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the session closed at 8 p.m. on Friday, 19 April 2013.

# Annex

## Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session

### A. Decision


| *Decision No.* | *Title* | *Date of adoption* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24/1 | Provisional agenda of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme | 19 April 2013 | 9 |


### B. Resolutions


| *Resolution No.* | *Title* | *Date of adoption* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24/1 | World Cities Day | 19 April 2013 | 9 |
| 24/2 | Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban basic services | 19 April 2013 | 10 |
| 24/3 | Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning | 19 April 2013 | 12 |
| 24/4 | Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development | 19 April 2013 | 14 |
| 24/5 | Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies | 19 April 2013 | 15 |
| 24/6 | Supporting action for the creation of safer cities | 19 April 2013 | 17 |
| 24/7 | Making slums history: a worldwide challenge | 19 April 2013 | 18 |
| 24/8 | Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development | 19 April 2013 | 20 |
| 24/9 | Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift | 19 April 2013 | 21 |
| 24/10 | Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda | 19 April 2013 | 23 |
| 24/11 | Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender | 19 April 2013 | 24 |

| *Resolution No.* | *Title* | *Date of adoption* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24/12 | Youth and sustainable urban development | 19 April 2013 | 26 |
| 24/13 | Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme | 19 April 2013 | 28 |
| 24/14 | Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) | 19 April 2013 | 29 |
| 24/15 | Strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014-2015 | 19 April 2013 | 32 |


## Decision 24/1
## Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

*The Governing Council decided that the provisional agenda of its twenty-fifth session would be as follows:*

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2016-2017.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/1
## World Cities Day

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the long-standing commitment of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world, and Governing Council resolution 8/4 of 8 May 1985, which recommended to the General Assembly of the United Nations that, beginning in 1986, the first Monday of October of every year should be called the "Day of Habitat", with a view to calling upon Governments and people from all walks of life to pay high attention to human settlements issues,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 40/202 of 17 December 1985, by which the Assembly decided to designate the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day,

*Recognizing* the megatrend of urbanization in human societies, and that cities, having a network of linkages not only extending far from their own boundaries but also playing a leading role in the development of rural areas, are increasingly instrumental to improving people's living environment and quality,

*Recognizing also* that over 50 per cent of the global population now live in cities and the ratio continues to rise, that sustainable urban development has therefore become one of the most pressing global challenges in the twenty-first century, and that Governments must pay greater attention to and investigate critical issues in urbanization and make joint efforts to build greener, more liveable, convenient, harmonious and environment-friendly cities,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[1] and its commitment to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements,

*Recalling also* that all participants of Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, with the common aspiration to recall, renew and advance in the future the theme "Better city, better life", joined the United Nations, the Bureau International des Expositions and the Organizing Committee of Expo 2010 in adopting the Shanghai Declaration on 31 October 2010, in which it is proposed to nominate 31 October as World Better Cities Day,

*Recalling further* the resolution adopted at the 151st General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions on 11 June 2012 on supporting the establishment of World Better Cities Day,

*Convinced* that World Better Cities Day, fit for the trend of human societies as well as the goals and missions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, shall be designated in an appropriate way,

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Decides* to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly that, beginning in 2014, 31 October of every year should be designated as World Cities Day.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/2
## Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban basic services

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 on the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the subsequent resolution 23/12 of 15 April 2011 on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities,

*Recalling also* its resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011 on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, by which it encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to promote public transport and mass transit systems, non-motorized transport and the provision of equitable space for pedestrians and cyclists, along with improvements in road systems and urban connectivity,

*Recalling further* paragraphs 84, 85 and 86 of the Habitat Agenda, which outline the scope of basic infrastructure and services and recommend actions by Governments at the appropriate level,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[2] and its reaffirmed commitments regarding the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for populations with full respect for national sovereignty,

*Recalling also* the priority given in "The future we want" to, among other issues, water and sanitation, energy, sustainable transport, sustainable cities and human settlements,

*Underlining* the resolve highlighted in "The future we want" to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development, underscoring the importance of interlinkages among key issues and challenges and the need for a systematic approach to them at all relevant levels, to enhance coherence, reduce fragmentation and overlap and increase effectiveness, efficiency and transparency, while reinforcing coordination and cooperation,

*Recognizing* the significance of equitable and adequate access to urban basic services as a foundation for sustainable urbanization and therefore to overall social and economic development,

[2] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

*Recognizing also* the need to improve access to safe, clean, affordable, sufficiently available and accessible drinking water and basic sanitation, as well as to improve wastewater management and drainage for sustainable development,

*Recognizing further* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound mobility and energy services and resources for sustainable development,

*Concerned* that equitable access to urban energy, mobility, water, sanitation and waste management services and poor drainage conditions remain major challenges for many people, in particular the urban poor in developing countries,

*Recognizing* the positive effects of well-managed urban basic services in creating local employment and in increasing urban productivity,

*Recognizing also* that introducing and maintaining a holistic perspective and integrated planning of basic urban services brings economic benefits through the more efficient use of resources, synergies in the delivery of urban basic services, higher productivity and less waste, thereby promoting improved human welfare, economic growth, job creation and a sustainable environment,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010, by which the Assembly designated 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, and mindful of the subsequent launch by the Secretary-General of his initiative "Sustainable Energy for All",

*Recognizing* that transportation is central to sustainable development, as stated in "The future we want", and cognizant of the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, which accords priority to urban transport,

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme gradually to expand the scope of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and to rename it the "Urban Basic Services Trust Fund", in order to increase site servicing, in support of the implementation of the Programme's work programme and its various components, such as those on urban legislation, land and governance, housing and slum-upgrading, and basic services, including sustainable solutions for water and sanitation, energy, mobility, waste management and drainage;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure that the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund uses the earmarked sectoral funds as specified, while allowing the funding of integrated solutions for urban basic services;

3. *Invites* Governments and other development partners to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to maintain its efforts on urban water and sanitation with an enhanced focus on the poor in informal settlements;

5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing appropriate support to the regional initiatives and frameworks on urban basic services that can complement and facilitate the implementation of the Programme's work on urban basic services at the regional and local levels;

6. *Calls upon* member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable energy services a priority;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote access to sustainable energy, particularly for the poor, including through decentralized options for renewable energy generation;

8. *Calls upon* member States to pay due attention to increased flood-risk prevention, including planning and protecting such utilities as sustainable drainage systems in order to increase settlements' resilience and to provide protection against the adverse impacts of climate change, such as flooding and storm-water surges;

9. *Also calls upon* member States to step up efforts to improve urban mobility, to ensure better access to goods and services and to reduce traffic accidents and air pollution through improved urban planning, better public transport and facilities for non-motorized transport, such as walking and cycling;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote sustainable mobility solutions in human settlements, especially cities, through affordable, convenient and safe mass transport and transit systems and pro-poor infrastructure development;

11. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to increase awareness of urban energy, mobility, drainage and waste management as further key elements of urban basic services;

12. *Calls upon* member States, Habitat Agenda partners and beneficiaries of the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund to make full use of the guidelines on access to basic services for all;

13. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to include criteria for enhancing integrated planning in the appraisal of all programmes and projects under the trust fund;

14. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director and member States to promote multi-sectoral and inter-organizational approaches, with a view to increasing policy coherence and institutional capacities, and to focus on the urban poor in line with the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, on the chosen operating modalities of the trust fund and on its performance.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/3
## Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 17 December 2012, which underlines that, in view of the current rapid urbanization process, the development and promotion of adequate infrastructure and basic services, as well as effective urban planning and design, are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration economies, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport and provide conditions necessary for job creation and urban economic growth,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[3] and reaffirming its commitment to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including through supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing the participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making,

*Considering* the Executive Director's report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session,[4] on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, and its recommendation to develop complementary guidelines on urban and territorial planning so as to facilitate the implementation of existing guidelines by providing a reference document for intersectoral and multilevel planning,

*Recalling* the Vancouver Declaration of the World Planners Congress of 2006,[5] based on the following principles: promotion of sustainable development; achievement of integrated planning; integration of plans with budgets; planning with partners and stakeholders; observance of the subsidiarity principle; promotion of market responsiveness; ensuring access to land; development of appropriate planning tools; ensuring a pro-poor and inclusive orientation; and recognition of cultural diversity,

*Recalling also* the International Conference on Inclusive Urban Planning, held on 18 and 19 February 2013, in New Delhi, at which it was noted that cities in the developing countries have developed largely in an unplanned manner where market-driven responses in respect of urban lands do not automatically self-regulate,

*Recognizing* the challenges arising from poorly planned and managed urbanization in terms of urban poverty and deprivation, alongside the fact that urban planning needs to respond dynamically to the changing realities of urbanization, economic processes and demand-driven development challenges,

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[3] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8.

[5] Available from www.globalplannersnetwork.org/pdf/06declarationenglish.pdf.

*Recognizing also* that there is a substantial proportion of the urban population whose livelihood spaces and activities, as well as spaces for living and working, lie outside the current systems of formal planning and sustainable urban growth and that, in that context, the inclusion of the poor in the formal planning process is crucial,

*Recognizing further* the need to coordinate planning policies at various levels of territories to support systems of cities,

*Recalling* the priority given by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to urban planning as one of the main objectives of its strategic framework and workplan,

1. *Urges* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to promote responsible planning in member States through capacity-building and awareness-raising with local governments and the involvement of people, focusing on the urban poor, to create healthier and sustainable cities;

2. *Encourages* member States to promote people-oriented participatory and inclusive approaches, by involving local governments and people, in particular the urban poor, in the preparation and implementation of city plans, to promote equal access to opportunities, infrastructure and services that urban and local areas offer;

3. *Invites* member States and Habitat Agenda partners to progressively reform the regulatory and institutional frameworks for urban planning, to recognize the urban poor as stakeholders and to promote strategic partnerships with local governments in urban planning processes;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to initiate the elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning that will provide a global framework for improving policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, sustainable, better integrated and connected cities and territories and to present the draft guidelines to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for approval;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of agreed universal principles for urban and territorial planning at the city level, in particular regarding planned city extensions, at the regional and the national level, with a particular focus on national urban policies;

6. *Also encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate these principles in the framework of decentralization, as provided by the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all;

7. *Further encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of recommendations for central Governments, local authorities, civil society and experts, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to improve urban and territorial planning;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in the drafting of international guidelines on urban and territorial

planning to engage in an inclusive consultative process with the regional offices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, national Governments, international associations of local authorities, including United Cities and Local Governments, all relevant United Nations organizations, international finance institutions, development agencies, relevant international professional associations and members of the Habitat Professional Forum, including the International Society of City and Regional Planners and non-governmental organizations, and other national and international stakeholders, in order to inform the drafting process with best practices and lessons learned from different contexts and at different scales;

9. *Invites* Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to technically and financially support the process for the elaboration of the guidelines and to host related field projects;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use already planned regional and international meetings on urban development in its setting of the road map towards the guidelines;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/4
## Gender equality and women's empowerment to contribute to sustainable urban development

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget for 2014-2015, both of which have a clear mandate to strengthen the systematic integration of a gender perspective in all the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

*Recalling* its resolutions 17/11 of 14 May 1999 on women in human settlements development and in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, 20/7 of 8 April 2005 on gender equality in human settlements development, 21/2 of 20 April 2007 on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, 21/9 of 20 April 2007 on women's land and property rights and access to finance, and 22/7 of 3 April 2009 on the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010-2011,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to resolution 23/1 of 15 April 2011, emphasizing the need for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme systematically to integrate a gender perspective in all its work, including through the establishment of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues, in order to achieve the effective and efficient implementation of gender mainstreaming,

*Reaffirming* its commitment to resolution 2012/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council of 27 July 2012, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system, by which the Council requested the United Nations system to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by continuing to align gender equality programming with national priorities; ensuring that entities within the United Nations system dedicated adequate financial and human resources to gender equality programming at the country level; strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities; enhancing the use of accountability mechanisms, including at the country level; securing technical expertise for gender equality in programme planning and implementation and providing ongoing capacity development in the area; and promoting the systematic use and analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age in the programming work as well as in measuring progress and impact,

*Recognizing* that persistent gender-related inequalities and women's lack of empowerment in human settlements, as evidenced by their inequitable access to land, property rights and other economic and financial assets, secure tenure, decent housing, essential infrastructure and basic services, and further aggravated by the vulnerability and lack of safety and security of women and girls in urban spaces and their unequal participation in urban governance, create challenges to achieving sustainable urban development,

*Commending* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its work in implementing gender equality and women's empowerment in its policies, programmes and projects, noting that, as stated in several documents, including the comprehensive 2011 evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[6] much remains to be done,

*Reaffirming* the importance of cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on gender-equality work and on promoting gender-responsive sustainable urban development,

*Acknowledging* that, in view of the urgent need to eliminate violence against women in private and public urban spaces, women's gained citizenship rights require women's leadership and involvement in urban governance and in urban planning, including for the design of public urban spaces, investments in public infrastructure and improvements of security and justice for the safety of communities and of women and girls, and their active participation in important international forums, such as the just concluded session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which three key side events were held on the theme "Elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls",

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in executing the two-fold gender strategy comprising, first, the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in all key focus areas; and, second, the setting up of policies and programmes needed to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment;

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[6] *Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in UN-Habitat*, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi, 2011.

2. *Urges* the Executive Director to form partnerships with civil society organizations, including networks of women's leaders in local governments, the private sector, the media, grass-roots women's and community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations and experts, building on their leadership in and knowledge of sustainable and gender-responsive urban development;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to make optimal use of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues by building on its guidance regarding the overall mainstreaming of gender within the organization and effective integration of gender equality policies and programmes when implementing the strategic plan and programme of work;

4. *Urges* the Executive Director to align the gender policy and plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with the system-wide action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment;

5. *Invites* national and local governments to develop and strengthen their policies and programmes to effectively support and to collect data disaggregated by sex and age and disseminate information on women's increased representation in local government and women's economic contributions to cities' prosperity; and to address the causes, consequences and impacts of and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls[7] through prevention measures, with specific attention to women's and girls' safety in private and public spaces, as defined in the Safer Cities Programme and promoted by the Global Network on Safer Cities;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming within the organization's programmes and activities.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/5
## Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 63/221 of 19 December 2008, by which, in paragraph 3, the Assembly invited Governments to encourage the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practice,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011, by which the Council encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners seriously to consider

[7] See the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 4-15 March 2013.

the need to increase urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, as well as to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and the resulting inefficient land-use patterns,

*Recognizing* paragraph 226 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[8] on the adoption of the global ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, and the need for a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles,

*Taking note* of the Nairobi Declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, adopted at its fourth session on 23 March 2012, by which African ministers responsible for housing and urban development committed themselves to, inter alia, strengthening and developing transformative national urban policies and adopting strategies for realizing smarter and more sustainable urban development through the reconfiguration of space, infrastructure and flows in new urban development and retrofitting existing cities, resulting in compact, mixed-use, high-density development that is walkable, bicycle-friendly and transit-oriented,

*Considering* the Executive Director's progress report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and its recommendation to develop complementary guidelines on urban and territorial planning so as to facilitate implementation of the existing guidelines by providing a reference document for intersectoral and multilevel planning,[9]

*Recalling* the objective of focus area two, urban planning and design, of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme strategic plan for 2014-2019, namely, to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change, at the city, regional and national levels,

1. *Encourages* Governments to initiate processes to review, strengthen and develop national urban policies where appropriate as a key strategy for national social and economic development, to maximize the national and local benefits of urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism among different sectors and ministries;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member States when developing and improving their urban policies;

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[8] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] HSP/GC/24/2/Add.8.

3. *Invites* member States to facilitate participatory processes and wide stakeholder participation, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies, where appropriate, in particular through national urban forums also as a means for the preparation of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

4. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, to prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to basic urban services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment;

5. *Invites* the Executive Director to establish strategic partnerships towards strengthening the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the implementation of the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns adopted at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including its programme on sustainable buildings and construction, and also to consider how to promote a supportive urban infrastructure for sustainable lifestyles through national spatial frameworks, including urban-rural linkages;

6. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute adequate financial resources to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in mobilizing public investment and private capital to achieve sustainable urban development through the implementation of national urban policies and planned city extensions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/6
## Supporting action for the creation of safer cities

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* resolution 23/14 of 15 April 2011, on sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and the prevention of urban crime, and recognizing its implementation and the growing involvement of local authorities through the Global Network on Safer Cities,

*Guided* by the principles of the United Nations guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, as set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995,

*Convinced* that the prevention of urban crime is one of the essential elements of sustainable urban developmental efforts and recognizing the direct relevance of urban safety for internationally agreed development goals,

*Welcoming* the General Assembly thematic debate on crime, violence and insecurity as a threat to development, held at its sixty-sixth session, in New York on 26 June 2012,

*Underlining* the fact that one of the most effective ways to meet the needs of member States in this area consists of both normative and operational activities, such as the development and dissemination of standards and tools, advisory services, training programmes and the dissemination and exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned at the regional, national and local levels,

*Appreciating* the partnerships that the Safer Cities Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has fostered within the United Nations system with such agencies as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, with a view to integrating the safer cities approach into their programming, pursuant to their mandates, and welcoming the positive outcomes of these partnerships in leveraging knowledge and resources for improved on-the-ground implementation of the Safer Cities Programme,

*Recognizing*, however, the continued challenges associated with generating adequate financial resources for the promotion of urban safety through the implementation of multi-sector and preventive approaches at the city level,

*Acknowledging* the call of mayors and other stakeholders at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in Naples, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities, for intensified efforts to strengthen the integrity of the safer cities approach by means of international cooperation and United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and financing mechanisms on safer cities,

*Taking note* of the outcome statement of the first steering committee meeting of the Global Network on Safer Cities on actions towards enhancing the roles of local authorities on safer cities,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance attached to capacity-building, technical cooperation and advisory services as a means for the Safer Cities Programme to respond to the needs of countries and to contribute to efforts by the international community in the face of increasing crime and violence in many cities and to assist member States in achieving the goals of preventing urban crime, reducing urban vulnerabilities to crime and improving the response to urban crime, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/9, and in line with Governing Council resolution 23/14;

2. *Stresses* the importance of continuing to strengthen the normative and operational activities of the Safer Cities Programme, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, so as to meet the needs of member States, at their request, for support in the prevention of urban crime and the enhancement of urban safety by developing standards and tools, by undertaking advisory services and training programmes and by disseminating and exchanging information through, among other measures, the promotion of field studies and research at the national and local levels;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to accelerate the effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution;

4. *Welcomes* the creation of the Global Network on Safer Cities and its support through the Safer Cities Programme;

5. *Encourages* Governments and national and international stakeholders to consider the formulation of goals and targets that strengthen the role of cities and urban development in the prevention of violence and crime, including violence against women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its work for the prevention of urban violence and crime and for the enhancement of urban safety, by implementing Governing Council resolution 23/14, and in particular its call for United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities and an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities, without prejudice to the distinctive mandates of each entity and in full compliance with the financial rules and regulations;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue cooperating with the Safer Cities Programme in support of its normative and operational activities, as part of the Global Network on Safer Cities;

8. *Stresses the importance* of sharing best practices between cities and local authorities and, in this regard, calls for the development of an urban safety monitor to measure the results of prevention efforts at the local level in order to facilitate the peer review of efforts by cities and local authorities to promote crime prevention and urban safety strategies;

9. *Calls for* the monitoring and measurement of the programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributing to crime and violence prevention efforts at the city and local authority level;

10. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to set up an inter-agency task team to review and present proposals for complementing the 1995 guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and the 2002 guidelines for the prevention of crime; the task team should also consider the recommendations presented in this regard by local authorities and other stakeholders, in particular by the Global Network on Safer Cities;

11. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to begin a process of consultation for a United Nations system-wide financing mechanism that includes all relevant stakeholders, in response to the call of cities and local governments to stimulate urban safety initiatives, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to report on the results of the consultation process to the Committee of Permanent Representatives every six months;

12. *Invites* member States, development partners and other relevant stakeholders and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit the present resolution to the Secretary-General's Policy Committee and to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in its implementation.

*8th plenary meeting*
19 April 2013

## Resolution 24/7
## Making slums history: a worldwide challenge

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the international conference on the theme: "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in Rabat from 26 to 28 November 2012, to review and share global progress in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010 and to devise a strategy for inclusive, sustainable and prosperous cities,

*Emphasizing* the commitment of the countries participating in the Rabat Conference to the promotion of sustainable urbanization and recalling the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, and the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling* the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[10] issued in the context of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996, which endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all,

*Recalling also* goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular its target 7.D, by 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, and seeking to build upon it,

*Taking note* of the Rabat Declaration, through which participants committed themselves to support through the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations the definition of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolutions 23/16 of 15 April 2011, on the formulation of a global housing strategy, and 23/9 of 15 April 2011, on global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target,

*Acknowledging* that a slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following elements: access to drinking water, access to improved sanitation facilities, secure tenure, sufficient living area and durability of housing,

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

*Noting* the irreversibility of urbanization and its potential for advancing human development and poverty reduction and the importance of slum upgrading and prevention in reducing the physical, social and economic vulnerability of slum dwellers, and strengthening the existing social capital in their communities,

*Recognizing* the need to promote inclusive slum upgrading and prevention strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements and ensure that slums are integrated into the political, social, cultural, and economic dimensions of cities, with a view to reducing urban poverty and inequality,

*Underlining* that new and additional actions must be taken at all levels, taking into account the wide variation of slum and housing conditions across the world,

*Noting with appreciation* the initiative of Morocco to provide policy and technical advice in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the areas of housing and slum upgrading, as part of the global housing strategy,

1. *Invites* member States to implement the universal principles for slum upgrading and prevention, such as prohibiting unlawful evictions, empowering women and youth, making slum upgrading interventions affordable and accessible, ensuring public participation regardless of race, sex, religious affiliation, and social and economic status, and promoting accountability and transparency in all programmes;

2. *Encourages* member States to consider the possibility of formulating, implementing and promoting inclusive urban policies, legislation and housing strategies that ensure efficient institutional frameworks, mechanisms for decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, and provide mixed land uses and tenure types to enhance local development and sustainable participatory slum upgrading and prevention;

3. *Invites* member States to apply more systematically urban planning methods, including participatory processes, adapted to the needs of incremental urbanization standards and compact, better integrated and connected urban development patterns;

4. *Also invites* member States to increase the allocation of financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and to establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes to develop investment plans for infrastructure and services;

5. *Further invites* member States to promote housing policies integrating sustainable approaches for energy efficiency in housing and human settlements that respect the environment and use innovative techniques and materials;

6. *Invites* member States to establish or strengthen national or local entities such as urban forums or national habitat committees to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders, including as a means of preparation for the Habitat III conference;

7. *Acknowledges* the role of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and,

in this regard, encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen coordination with the office of the Special Rapporteur;

8. *Invites* member States to define and reinforce new national monitoring systems and national goals for halving the proportion of people living in slums, taking into account the experience gained to date in seeking to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers;

9. *Calls upon* member States, in achieving the aforementioned goal, to prioritize slum upgrading and prevention strategies and to refrain from resorting to forced evictions;

10. *Invites* member States to enhance the exchange of best practices in the framework of South-South cooperation with local authorities and Habitat Agenda partners;

11. *Appreciates* the progress made by the programmes on participatory slum upgrading in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and on the upgrading of slums and informal settlements in Asia and the enabling strategy to move to scale in Brazil and other countries in Latin America and requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its support for such programmes in accordance with its overall work programme and budget.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/8
## Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the call in the Habitat Agenda[11] for the establishment or strengthening of cooperative mechanisms to integrate commitments and actions concerning adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development into policies, programmes and operations,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001, paragraph 65, which, inter alia, reiterated the need for the political will of all States and for specific action at the international level to inspire, to encourage and to strengthen existing and innovative forms of cooperation and partnership and coordination at all levels, to contribute effectively to the improvement of housing conditions, especially in developing countries,

*Calling for* the acceleration of efforts to achieve significant improvement in the implementation of targets 7.C, to halve the population without access to water and sanitation, and 7.D, to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, of the Millennium Development Goals,

[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

*Taking note* of Governing Council resolution 20/2 of 8 April 2005, which invited Governments to strengthen or establish regional consultative structures and to use those in raising the profile of issues addressed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, which acknowledged the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and regional frameworks that could complement and facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level,

*Stressing* the importance of the regional and national preparations for the third United Nations conference on housing and urban development in 2016 (Habitat III),

*Noting* the establishment in Cairo of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States, based on the agreement signed on 29 September 2010 between the Government of Egypt and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the subsequent endorsement of that agreement by the League of Arab States,

*Noting with appreciation* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States has obtained observer status with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States and that it participates regularly in the meetings of the Council,

*Taking note* of decision 9 of the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States at its twenty-ninth session, held on 18 December 2012 in Baghdad, on the establishment of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development,

*Recognizing* the importance of cooperation between the Ministerial Council on Housing and Construction of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Arab States, through the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, for achieving the goals of sustainable urbanization in the Arab States, in particular since this cooperation constitutes a constant agenda item in the meetings of the Council,

*Emphasizing* that the members of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development will continue their membership, active contribution and current commitments, while enhancing the current engagement of all States, in the African Ministerial Council for Housing and Urban Development and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment by the League of Arab States of the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development as a technical platform and appreciates the generous offer by the Government of Jordan to host its first session in 2014, and also welcomes the establishment of other non-United Nations regional ministerial technical forums and arrangements;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to extend his support to United Nations Human Settlements Programme regional and thematic offices to support regional forums, including the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, to work closely with them to achieve the aims of the Habitat

Agenda[12] and to assist them in the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want";[13]

3. *Encourages* the exploration of the opportunities for strengthening South-South cooperation and the exchange of experiences among the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Arab States Ministerial Forum on Housing and Urban Development, as well as relevant United Nations offices and regional arrangements;

4. *Requests* Governments of Arab States, in a position to do so, to contribute to the funding of the activities of the Arab States Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, and likewise invites other States to contribute to the funding of the activities of their respective forums;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/9
## Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the Global Housing Strategy framework document[14] and the report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[15] section P of which reviews the implementation of resolution 23/16 of 15 April 2011, on the formulation of a global housing strategy,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, adopting the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, and paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda,[16] which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

*Recognizing* that output-based housing policies and strategies have sometimes failed to match supply with demand, resulting in certain instances in large numbers of vacant housing units and in isolated ghost towns, while in other instances there is a severe lack of adequate housing available, necessitating a paradigm shift to results-based housing policies and strategies that recognize the need to integrate housing with other urban uses,

[12] Ibid.
[13] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.
[14] HSP/GC/24/2/Add.6.
[15] HSP/GC/24/2.
[16] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

*Recalling* the targets set out in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration[17] and the 2001 Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[18] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020,

*Taking note* of the reports of the fifth and sixth sessions of the World Urban Forum, highlighting the large number of events related to housing and slum upgrading, which demonstrate a sustained demand for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to respond to housing and slum-upgrading issues,

*Taking note* of the Rabat Declaration, adopted at the international conference on the theme: "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in Rabat from 26 to 28 November 2012, by which 25 member States committed themselves to halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030,

*Recognizing* that achievements towards the implementation of goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals have been made by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers, surpassing the target of 100 million, and that, in the meantime, an additional 360 million slum dwellers have been added to the global urban population, which calls for a new approach to slum upgrading and prevention,

*Recognizing also* that slum upgrading must be undertaken as part of a broader framework of urban and housing policies, underpinned by appropriate urban planning as an important tool to prevent the formation of new slums, and acknowledging that slums are no stand-alone phenomenon but are linked to urban poverty and inequalities, and the lack of mixed-use urban planning and adequate land and housing options,

*Welcoming* efforts made by Governments in implementing large-scale inclusive housing programmes for diversifying access to adequate housing for all,

*Acknowledging* that sustainable, adequate, rights-based and inclusive housing policies and strategies are instrumental in addressing the challenge of slums and sustainable urban development, as well as contributing to stimulating urban economic development and job creation,

*Recognizing* the progress that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has made to date in developing the Global Housing Strategy framework document and in widely disseminating the concept and engaging in discussions with more than 600,000 national and city housing officials, professionals, academics and members of civil society and the private sector through the use of innovative social media and by advocating the Strategy's principles and methodology in various international conferences and workshops,

*Acknowledging* the role and responsibility of national and local governments, communities and Habitat Agenda partners, and also of regional initiatives, in addressing current challenges, including urban segregation, housing shortages and the formation and growth of slums,

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[17] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[18] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

*Embracing* the paradigm shift elaborated in the Global Housing Strategy, including its principles and guidelines, towards achieving its outcomes at the global, national and local levels through the new urban agenda by strengthening the linkages between urban planning, neighbourhood development and housing, including also slum upgrading and prevention,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, by proposing a paradigm shift, where needed, including the integration of housing with other urban uses; encouraging the pro-poor performance of markets; promoting system-wide reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions; strengthening linkages between housing, the economy, employment and poverty reduction; using sustainable building and neighbourhood designs and contributing to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop normative material, including the documentation of good practices from countries that are already applying the principles of the Global Housing Strategy and guidelines and evaluation frameworks, to support policymakers in developing appropriate housing and slum-upgrading policies that are results-based, gender-responsive and rights-based and that encourage the development of housing of an adequate and sustainable quality and in adequate and sustainable quantities that is accessible and affordable to all and produced by a variety of actors, including local authorities, civil society, the private sector and housing institutions;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to achieve the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, at national and local levels, by supporting requests from member States to address the current drawbacks in housing delivery through the paradigm shift of using urban planning as an entry point to housing, ensuring that housing is delivered as part of mixed urban uses, as well as achieving appropriate density, the integration of social groups and improved mobility;

4. *Invites* central and local governments to engage with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in global and regional platforms, including the Global Housing Strategy network, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations, to share evidence-based knowledge, experiences and effective innovative practices in housing and slum-upgrading that demonstrate the new paradigm;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support national and local governments and key Habitat Agenda partners and their urban coordination mechanisms in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive national and local housing strategies;

6. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to empower all citizens, in particular women and youth, through inclusive broad-based participatory processes to contribute effectively to the development and implementation of housing and slum-upgrading strategies, as well as action plans leading to security of tenure;

7. *Invites* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/10
## Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 development agenda

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[19] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[20] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[21] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

*Recognizing* paragraph 135 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[22]

*Taking note* of the Rabat Declaration, adopted on 28 November 2012 at the international conference on the theme: "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge for 2020", by which participants committed themselves to supporting, through the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, the adoption of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030, as part of the overall formulation of the post-2015 development agenda,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development (Habitat III), so as to adopt a new urban agenda,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda; recognized the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continued to be a global challenge; and acknowledged that, while significant progress had been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[23] and the twin goals

[19] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[20] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[21] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[22] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[23] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

of the Habitat Agenda,[24] challenges remained, such as the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

*Recognizing* the work of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and its support to the multi-stakeholder consultations being led by member States on a post-2015 global development agenda,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributes to the development and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urbanization;

2. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to give appropriate consideration in their contributions to the post-2015 development agenda to sustainable urbanization, to sustainable urban development and to the role of cities and local governments in this regard;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/11
## Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 4 of the Habitat Agenda,[25] which recognizes that the sustainable development of human settlements encompasses economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling also* paragraph 155 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that urban economies are integral to the process of economic transformation and development and that they are a prerequisite for the creation of a diversified economic base capable of generating employment opportunities,

*Recalling further* paragraph 115 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognizes that the eradication of poverty requires, inter alia, creating employment opportunities, equal and universal access to economic opportunities and special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged,

[24] Ibid., annex II.

[25] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

*Recalling* paragraphs 158-161 of the Habitat Agenda, which urge Governments to, inter alia, formulate and implement financial policies that stimulate urban employment opportunities, offer opportunities for urban economic activities by facilitating the access of small and medium-sized enterprises, including the informal sector, to credit and finance and streamlining legal and administrative procedures,

*Recalling also* paragraph 119 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to foster economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women in both formal and informal sectors,

*Recalling further* paragraphs 13, 45 and 120 of the Habitat Agenda, which recognize the importance of working in partnership with young people in human settlements management and development and of their empowerment to participate in decision-making in order to improve urban livelihoods and contribute to sustainable human settlements,

*Recalling* paragraph 76 of the Habitat Agenda, which requests Governments to consider the adoption of innovative instruments that capture gains in land value,

*Recalling also* Governing Council resolution 20/7 of 8 April 2005, by which the Council requested Governments and local authorities to foster gender equality and empowerment of women within the context of sustainable urban development,

*Recalling further* Governing Council resolution 21/6 of 20 April 2007, by which the Council requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to establish an opportunities fund for urban youth-led development, with the aim of strengthening the Programme's work on urban youth through youth-led initiatives, including through vocational training and grants to promote entrepreneurship and employment for youth,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolution 23/17 of 15 April 2011, by which the Council encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to review and improve land-based tax systems and create mechanisms for broadening land-based revenue streams, including by improving the competencies and capacities of local and regional authorities in the field of land and property valuation and taxation,

*Recognizing* paragraph 135 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[26] in which Governments committed themselves to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements and the generation of decent jobs,

*Noting with appreciation* the appointment of a special envoy on youth by the Secretary-General in January 2013 with the aim of promoting the engagement of youth in the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the theme paper on the issue presented by the Executive Director,[27]

*Noting with appreciation* the renewed emphasis of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme as reflected in its proposed strategic plan for 2014-2019, on

[26] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[27] HSP/GC/24/4.

the urban economy and the role of urban planning, innovative financing and the economic empowerment of youth and women in the creation of sustainable cities,

1. *Encourages* Governments to apply good urban planning policies to enhance economic productivity and equity, to implement economic empowerment programmes that create opportunities, with special reference to youth and women, and to adopt innovative tools for generating additional resources for local authorities in addressing urban planning matters, including through land and property value capture;

2. *Encourages* Governments to foster a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of youth, women and vulnerable population groups in urban and rural areas, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities and minorities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue working with partners to promote pro-poor land-based financing as a means of supporting urban development, densification and extension through, inter alia, land and property value capture and land and property taxation by documenting and disseminating good practices and developing innovative tools and instruments;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Human Settlements Programme's knowledge base, disseminate that knowledge to member States and provide support to member States on the urban economy and municipal finance, including by documenting and disseminating good practices and tools on the economics of urban form, economic development strategies, urban small-scale and informal economies, and the economic empowerment of youth and women;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to mainstream cross-cutting issues, including gender and young men and women, in the work by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on economic development and empowerment and also to continue the work in the Youth 21 initiative and to promote the participation of youth by supporting the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in the further engagement of young people;

6. *Invites* relevant Habitat Agenda partners to provide resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support its work on mainstreaming youth and gender, promoting the role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, particularly for youth and women, and its initiatives on local economic development and innovative revenue generation for local authorities;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/12
## Youth and sustainable urban development

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling with appreciation* paragraph 24 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[28] which expresses deep concern about the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, and notes the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address youth employment at all levels,

*Recalling* Governing Council resolution 20/1 of 8 April 2005, on youth and human settlements, by which the Council urged Governments to include young people in their national delegations to the Governing Council and to the World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

*Recalling also* the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013 and the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2012-2013, which elaborated on mainstreaming youth in the normative and operational programme,

*Recognizing* that, in absolute numbers, there are more people under the age of 25 today than ever before, totalling nearly 3 billion or half of the world's total population, and noting that positioning young people at the centre of urban development strategies is critical to solving the problems of human settlements in developing countries,

*Taking cognizance* of the dynamic potential of young people in terms of their demographic dominance in cities, their potential role in social and economic development, their increasing engagement in the governance of communities, cities and nations, and also their critical importance in sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, in which youth is recognized as one of the top priorities for the United Nations system, and his appointment of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, the highest-ranking youth position ever appointed within the United Nations system,

*Taking cognizance* of the challenges of unemployment, alienation and unequal access to basic services and to opportunities, still undermining the potential of young people in many parts of the world, in particular girls and young women and those in urban centres,

*Acknowledging* the importance for young people of the utilization of information and communication technology at the local, national and international levels to improve their participation in governance at all levels, provide livelihoods and foster transparency and accountability,

*Welcoming* the groundbreaking research by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of youth, such as the report on the state of urban

[28] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

youth for the period 2012-2013,[29] which recommends a better match between education skills and labour market needs through vocational training and the participation of the private sector; and the Global Youth-led Development report series, which highlights best practices in youth-led development drawn from youth agencies funded by the Urban Youth Fund,

*Considering* the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations bodies, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, and partners through the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, in which the United Nations Human Settlements Programme was co-chair, in strengthening the youth agenda within the United Nations system and globally,

*Recognizing* the hosting by the Government of Brazil of a high-level panel meeting on youth at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the final declaration of which supports the continuing work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Youth 21 initiative in developing processes to better engage youth within the United Nations system,

*Taking note of* the Final Declaration of the sixteenth conference of Ibero-American Ministers Responsible for Youth, which recognizes the importance that participants accorded to the Youth 21 initiative and the establishment of a permanent forum on youth issues,

*Noting with appreciation* the World Youth Conference, which took place in Mexico in August 2010,

*Welcoming* the initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka to host, in 2014, a world conference on youth in Colombo, with a focus on the participation and involvement of youth in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Recalling* the Amman Declaration and the Amman Implementation Plan adopted unanimously by the ministers of the Asia-Pacific region participating in the fourth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, held in Amman from 10 to 12 December 2012, with the overall theme of youth, information and communications technology and sustainable urban development,

1. *Invites* member States to undertake capacity-building at the institutional level to harness the potential and the abilities of young people to positively effect change within their countries and communities;

2. *Also invites* member States to develop national urban policies, where appropriate, with the full participation of youth at all stages to promote the participation of youth, and also to involve youth in decision-making at national and subnational levels, and in volunteerism, skills development, employment creation and entrepreneurship development;

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[29] *State of the Urban Youth 2012/2013: Youth in the Prosperity of Cities*, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Nairobi, 2012.

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of gender equality, encourages gender mainstreaming in programmes related to youth and further encourages initiatives intended to empower young women and men;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban youth with the aim of enhancing the involvement of young people in sustainable urban development, including the Global Land Tool Network and in keeping with the work programme and budget;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely, within the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, in the fulfilment of the Envoy's workplan, which aims to increase the access of youth, including marginalized youth, and young women and girls to the United Nations through promoting structured mechanisms for youth participation, at national, regional and international levels;

6. *Invites* Governments to make financial contributions to strengthen the youth programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

7. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to review the programme's strategy on enhancing the engagement of youth within the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to allocate adequate resources for the mainstreaming of youth within the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

8. *Invites* the Executive Director to work with the Government of Sri Lanka on preparations for the World Conference on Youth in 2014, in particular with youth participation and technical support;

9. *Further encourages* the Executive Director to work with member States and multilateral institutions actively working in the Latin American region to enhance youth engagement in governance and to increase work on youth entrepreneurship in the region, in the lead-up to the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in 2014 in Medellin, Colombia;

10. *Invites* member States to adequately reflect youth in their national budgets and programmes;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session in 2015.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/13
## Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

*The Governing Council,*

*Pursuant* to its resolution 21/2 of 20 April 2007, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to establish, in consultation with the Committee of

Permanent Representatives, clear criteria for the Programme's country-level activities following the approval of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme results-based medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013,

*Recalling* its resolution 23/15 of 15 April 2011, which reaffirmed the importance of country activities as part of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and as a central component of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Programme's enhanced normative and operational framework,

*Acknowledging* the complementarity and synergy between the operational and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which constitute a major asset and comparative advantage,

*Acknowledging* the role of the regional offices and Habitat Programme managers in the country activities in line with resolution 20/15 of 8 April 2005,

*Referring* to the relevant provisions of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, by which the development partners underlined the principle of national ownership and leadership, took note of the progress made by countries participating in the "Delivering as one" initiative and reiterated the objective of simplification and harmonization of business practices, rules and procedures to enhance the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations development system,

*Welcoming* the efforts made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in recent years since the approval of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to take part actively in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, and also the United Nations country teams, as a component of its strategy to ease the delivery on its normative and operational mandates in a further search for sustainability in the human settlements and urban development sectors,

*Taking note* of the 2008-2013 medium-term strategic and institutional plan, which contributed to the rolling out of a set of key activities in support of the Programme's advocacy and policy advisory services at the country level, including the strengthening of national urban forums and the development of Habitat country programme documents for the purpose of enhancing the inclusion of the urban agenda into national policy and legislation,

*Recognizing* the positive contribution of well executed, well coordinated and sufficiently funded country activities to the implementation of the programme of work,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the country activities contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan and programme of work, including the normative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and are fully coordinated including through regional offices with countries and cities concerned;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to enhance the delivery by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of country activities, inter alia, by

strengthening regional and country offices as well as country programme managers, by enhancing their substantive and administrative competences;

3. *Invites* all Governments to contribute to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue promoting South-South cooperation, including triangular and city-to-city cooperation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with other relevant United Nations programmes and activities at the country level and to take an active part in the United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, in addition to the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the work of United Nations country teams;

6. *Urges* the Executive Director regularly to assess the impact of the project, programmes and country activities and to harvest cases of best practices and lessons learned from the country level, which should feed back into the global normative work of the Programme with the goal of improving its planning and effectiveness;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in country activities, including the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/14
## Inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on both the preparations for and implementation of the outcome of Habitat II and on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[30]

*Recognizing* the effective roles of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and of intergovernmental, subregional and regional organizations, in the subregional and regional preparatory processes for Habitat II,

[30] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

through coordination, facilitation and funding of, among other things, interministerial meetings and the participation of countries with insufficient resources,

*Acknowledging* the changing roles of established Habitat Agenda partners and the new and emerging State and non-State actors engaged in human settlements and urban development at global, regional, national and local levels, such as local governments, civil society, representatives of mobile populations, universities, the private sector, private foundations, and their associations,

*Welcoming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[31] in particular paragraphs 134-137 on sustainable cities and human settlements,

*Acknowledging* that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[32] and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, challenges remain, such as, among others, the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

*Recognizing* the specific progress made in meeting and even surpassing goal 7, target 7.D, of the Millennium Development Goals, while noting that slums and urban poverty continue to be a global challenge,

*Recognizing also* the need for a review and assessment at the national, regional and international levels of the progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda, and of other international goals relevant to human settlements as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, by which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996, 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a new urban agenda,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session, as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the Conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);[33]

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[31] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[32] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[33] HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference, in his capacity as Executive Director, and in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to refine his proposed input to the preparatory process for Habitat III, using the expertise of the United Nations system organizations and Habitat Agenda partners, by:

(a) Considering possible contributions from United Nations system organizations and Habitat Agenda partners;

(b) Presenting strategic options for the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the preparatory process of the conference, considering the availability of financial resources and implications for the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(c) Including the provision of an updated think piece about the future of urbanization and sustainable human settlements and urban development to conceptually inform the inputs;

(d) Suggesting guidelines and format for the preparation of national reports, which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as well as cross-cutting issues, in a balanced way. Such guidelines should allow for different approaches to preparing the reports according to different national circumstances while ensuring their compatibility, and should facilitate contributions from Habitat Agenda partners, including local governments and their associations, civil society groups, the private sector and academic institutions, to the national reports;

3. *Calls upon* member States, using any available assistance and necessary guidance and support from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to form national Habitat committees where they do not exist and strengthen the existing national Habitat committees to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the Habitat III preparatory process, including the preparation of national reports;

4. *Invites* member States to prepare, before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, national reports which consider the implementation of the Habitat II agenda and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a new urban agenda, in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to prepare regional reports drawing on the national reports as well as on available knowledge, resources and data as inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United

Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional international organizations, to prepare a global report drawing on the national and regional reports, and also on available knowledge, resources and data, as an input to and support for the preparatory process of the Conference;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to use planned regional and global meetings such as the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, sessions of the United Nations regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development, and also of other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, for the development of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme input to the preparatory process and invites the conveners of these events to facilitate dialogue on key issues in order to provide inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, while ensuring that the quality of participation and the outcomes are not compromised;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and of the United Nations system as a whole, to provide support to member States, including through their national Habitat committees and national urban forums, to elaborate the national reports and to strengthen mechanisms for enabling the effective participation and contribution of all Habitat Agenda partners at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself, including national urban campaigns;

9. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue engaging all Habitat Agenda partners and new partners in the World Urban Campaign in order to identify and collect good practices that could contribute to the new urban agenda and to support national urban campaigns and their communication and outreach activities initiated to contribute to national preparations for Habitat III;

10. *Welcomes* paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to propose to the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III specific support mechanisms to enable the effective contributions and active participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the Conference itself, building on the positive experience enabled by the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II, and, in that context, invites the Secretary-General of the Conference to encourage all Habitat Agenda partners, including women and youth, local authorities and their associations, to contribute actively to the preparatory process for Habitat III and to the Conference itself;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider establishing an effective United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism so as to enable the effective participation and contributions of United Nations departments, funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, and the international financial institutions, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the Conference itself;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to adopt where feasible innovative technologies and approaches so as to ensure that the preparatory process for Habitat III is inclusive, participatory and efficient, such as paper-smart meetings and internet platforms that can be used for sharing analytical tools and reports and for promoting dialogue during the Conference's preparatory process, and to ensure that the use of such approaches does not adversely affect the participation of countries with limited information and communication technology capacities;

13. *Urges* the Secretary-General of the Conference to consider mobilizing high-level expertise from within the United Nations system to assist in the preparatory process of the Conference;

14. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to establish a trust fund for the Conference and urges the Secretary-General of the Conference to put in place all mechanisms and operational procedures necessary to ensure the fund's efficiency and effectiveness, in line with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 67/216;

15. *Urges* international and bilateral donors, and also the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors, to support the national, regional and global preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries to meetings of the Preparatory Committee and to the Conference itself;

16. *Welcomes* paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the Conference, while promoting inter-agency support to the maximum possible extent;

17. *Requests*, in that context, the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, to mobilize appropriate resources to support preparatory activities for the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, building upon the substantive outputs included in the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and making full use of the extensive capabilities of the United Nations system to provide capacity-building and technical and expert assistance to member States to complete their national reports;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in his capacity as Executive Director, to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the Conference.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

## Resolution 24/15
## Strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014-2015

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to achieving, inter alia, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020[34] and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[35] to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015,

*Taking note* of the progress made to date in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, as reported through the six-monthly and annual progress reports, and also the findings from independent reviews and evaluations of the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan,

*Noting with appreciation* steps taken to improve the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of its strategic plan and work programme, including policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity, measures to enhance accountability and transparency, and clearly articulated strategic priorities,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nation system,

*Recalling also* its resolution 23/11 of 15 April 2011, requesting the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to prepare a strategic plan for 2014–2019 for submission to the Governing Council for review and approval at its twenty-fourth session,

*Recalling further* the request to the Executive Director, working in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2014-2015 were aligned with the strategic plan for 2014-2019,

*Having considered* the draft strategic framework 2014-2015 and the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014-2015 and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

1. *Approves* the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and the work programme for the biennium 2014-2015, taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

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[34] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[35] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

2. *Also approves* the general purpose budget of 45,617,400 United States dollars and endorses the special purpose budget of 123,187,800 United States dollars for the biennium 2014-2015 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2014-2015 and notes an estimated technical cooperation funding of 202,482,400 United States dollars;

3. *Notes* that the general purpose resources are allocated for the biennium 2014-2015 for the purposes indicated in the following table (thousands of United States dollars):

| *General purpose resources for the biennium 2014-2015 (thousands of United States dollars)* | *Amount* |
|---|---|
| 1. Urban legislation, land and governance | 3 113.2 |
| 2. Urban planning and design | 4 236.9 |
| 3. Urban economy | 3 348.6 |
| 4. Housing and slum upgrading | 3 637.6 |
| 5. Urban basic services | 3 889.8 |
| 6. Risk reduction and rehabilitation | 4 426.2 |
| 7. Research and capacity development | 4 453.4 |
| 8. Executive direction and management | 13 775.7 |
| 9. Programme support | 4 736.0 |

4. *Requests* the Executive Director in his efforts to mobilize resources for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to take measures to broaden the donor base of the Foundation's general purpose budget and to develop, in consultation with member States, tools to ensure a more balanced contribution by member States to the overall budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2016-2017, and to ensure that the two exercises are aligned with the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to report annually to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on progress made in implementation of the strategic plan and work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in the programmes, projects and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in line with its mandate, and to allocate adequate resources accordingly;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue strengthening implementation of results-based management in all the programmes, projects, policies and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

9. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices in other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent, and to consult the

Committee of Permanent Representatives in respect of any allocation above that contained in the programme of work and budget approved by the Governing Council;

10. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the allocations to the subprogrammes in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

11. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them in line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

12. *Reiterates* its call to all member States for continued financial support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through increased voluntary contributions and invites more Governments and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and to increase non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop and implement a cost-recovery framework, based on the United Nations guiding principle of full cost recovery, from core and earmarked resources, using a simple, transparent and harmonized methodology;

15. *Further requests* the Executive Director to maintain his current emphasis on results for the achievement of the programme objectives, and for the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subjected to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

17. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council for approval at its twenty-fifth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that monitors and manages the share of resources devoted respectively to administrative costs and programme activities, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources to programme activities;

18. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*8th plenary meeting*
*19 April 2013*

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